

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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PASS HEW , AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO EAID EG
SUBJ: Wafa Wa Amal - CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

1. SUMMARY: MRS. JEHAN SADAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, Wafa Wa Amal HAS REPLACED ADMIRAL (DR.) MUSTAFA EL SHEATI AS DIRECTOR, Wafa Wa Amal. NEW DIRECTOR IS MRS. AKILA EL SAMMA. END SUMMARY

2. EMBOFFS RECENTLY VISITED Wafa Wa Amal TO FOLLOW UP RECENT REPORTS OF WHOLESALE CHANGES IN Wafa MANAGEMENT. THEY WERE RECEIVED BY NEW DIRECTOR, MRS. AKILA EL SAMMA, WHO HAD BEEN IN POSITION ONLY ABOUT ONE WEEK. SHE HAD NO PREVIOUS OFFICIAL CONNECTION WITH EITHER PROFESSIONAL STAFF OR BOARD OF Wafa. SHE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST. MRS. EL SAMMA, APPARENTLY IN HER FIFTIES, SAID SHE HAD BEEN WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. SHE UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO SPEAK CONVERSATIONALLY. WE WILL FORWARD HER BIO DATA AS SOON AS COMPLIED.

3. MRS. EL SAMMA, OBVIOUSLY NEW AND NOT PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT ALL DETAILS OF Wafa Wa Amal HISTORY, SAID SHE DID NOT SEE ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN OVERAL DEVELOPMENT

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POLICY OR DIRECTION. SHE DID NOT SEEM AWARE OF ORIGINAL US CONTRIBUTION OF \$10 MILLION IN L.E. SHE SAID THAT OPERATIONAL METHODS WERE BEING ALTERED AND THAT NOW PATIENTS WOULD BE PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMING USEFUL WORK AT THE FACILITY AS HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTENDED. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF NON HANDICAPPED RETIRED GENERAL OFFICERS WHO FORMERLY LIVED ON

THE PREMISES AND HAD SPECIAL PRIVILEGES HAVE LEFT. SHE SAID PLANS FOR 700 BED HOSPITAL REMAIN UNCHANGED AND HOPES CONSTRUCTION CAN BE COMPLETED IN THREE TO FOUR YEARS. SHE SIMPLY SMILED WHEN ASKED IF FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE.

4. MRS. EL SAMMA TOLD US SHE WAS EXPECTING VISIT FROM PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR VOLUNTARY FUND RAISING FOR WAFWA AMAL IN THE US AND ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD ANY WORD. WE DID NOT, BUT TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE NEED FOR AN WELL DONE ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET PLAN. SHE AGREED, BUT THEN SO DID HER PREDECESSORS, AND LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE. FYI. WE WERE IMPRESSED BY AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT AROUND PREMISES, WHICH HAD OT YET APPEARED IN ACCOUNTING RECORDS. END FYI.

5. IN REPSONSE TO QUERY, THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT MINISTER OF HEALTH HAD NOT BEEN ADDED TO BOARD, BUT REMAINED A CONSULTANT IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY. SHE WAS ALSO UNAWARE OF SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION ON RECENT CONSIDERATION OF DR. BARNEY STROHN AS AN ADVISOR. WE TOLD HERE THAT DELAY IN A FORMAL DECISION HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR DR. STROHM TO ACCEPT, HOWEVER HE HAD NEVER BEEN ADVISED OF A BOARD DECISION.

6. COMMENT: STORY EWE HAVE HEARD IS THAT IRISH NURSES WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING AT WAFWA FOR TWO YEARS WERE FINALLY FED UP WITH OVERALL SITUATION INCLUDING INEFFICIENCIES AND PAMPERED TREATMENT OF COTERIE OF RESIDENT ABLE BODIED RETIRED MILITARY SENIOR OFFICERS AND TOLD MRS. SADAT THINGS HAD TO CHANGE OR THEY WERE LEAVING AT ONCE. MRS. SADAT SAID SHE HAD HEARD THESE THING BEFORE, NOTABLY FROM FORMER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US ADVISOR JOSEPH TRAUB OF HEW, BUT HAD NOT WANTED TO BELIEVE THE SITUATION WAS AS BAD AS STATED. SHE THEN REPLACED SHEATI.

7. IT IS TOO SOON TO SEE WHETHER MRS. LE SAMMA CAN IMPROVE OVERALL OPERATIONSN BUT SOME BEGINNING STEPS HAVE AT LEAST BEEN MADE. IN OUR VIEW IT IS BETTER THAT SITUATION CAME TO A HEAD AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS NO USG INVOLVEMENT WITH WAFWA. HOWEVER, SINCE OPERATION CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY TRAUB AND OTHERS HAVE NOW BEEN INSTITUTED, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE RENEWED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. EILTS

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